Support for Normandy+Twing Zoning Petition

lawrence bluestone <lbluestone@verizon.net>

Thu 5/14/2015 11:18 AM

City Clerk Agenda

To:Lopez, Donna <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>; City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>;

Dear City Councillors -

RE: Support for Normandy Twining Zonining Petition

As a long-time Cambridge resident, neighbor of the Central Square Business District, and architect and urban designer with over 40 years of experience throughout the country, I wish to again express my strongest support for the Normandy Twining Zoning Petition. The Normandy Twining mixed-use housing proposal is right for the city's future and right for this site. This project's unprecedented pledge of 20% affordable units will provide much needed housing, *at all price points*, to help meet the unrelenting demand for new housing in Cambridge at this time of severe housing shortages. Housing supply must be dramatically increased across the board at appropriate sites to help meet this unprecedented demand. This site is one of those *most* appropriate locations: it's situated along the city's main business arterial and business district, proximate to excellent transit, and at a landmark gateway location marking the eastern entry into Central Square. The proposal's density, height and provision of active retail frontage on Massachusetts Avenue are especially appropriate for this landmark site. If this site is not appropriate for such a vital and contributing development, then where in the city will anything be possible?

The Normandy Twining Zoning Petition should be heartily supported by all City Councillors wishing to tackle our city's severe housing crisis, wishing to support the retail vitality of Central Square, and wishing to support smart growth at this very appropriate place. Some opponents of this Petition are fundamentally resistant to change - at any location. But change is necessary for the future betterment, affordability, and vitality of our dynamic city for all our residents.

Lawrence Bluestone
18 Centre Street